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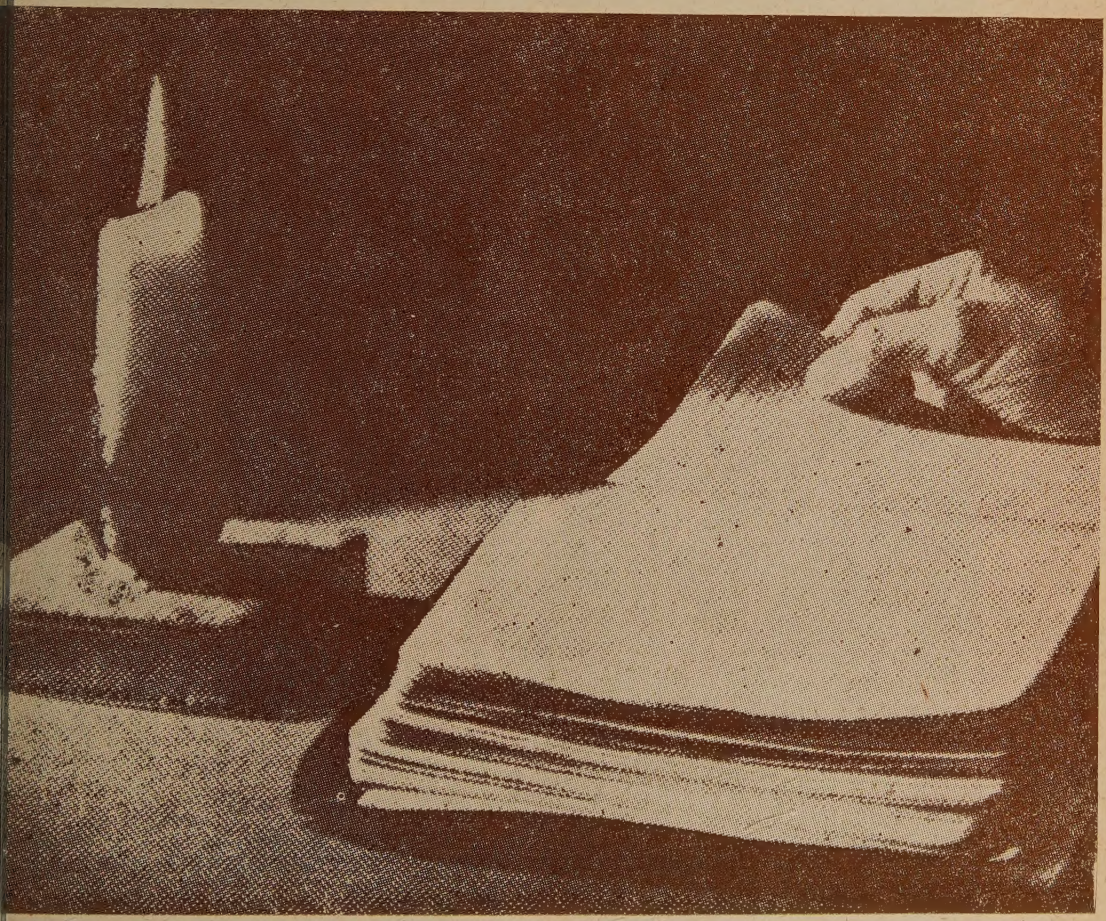


olume 50 January - March 1960

EDITORIAL

Pure and immaculate is the new year ich comes to you as another of God's at gifts. Each day will be a priceless n that you will thread unto the silver cord life. Each hour will be a coveted golden k that you will tie unto the eternal chain longevity.

You are on the threshold of a new year. ne you stand before the threshold. But l holds forth his hands to welcome you ough. You take your first step and His sence fills you. You see the work of his ds in the promenading of the clouds; you se his breath in the evening breeze; you r his voice in the everlasting song of the s; his smile breaks through to you in the bright ray of the sun and in the twin- ng of the first star. He has gone with the ng year, but he has returned with the r about to be born to be with you al- ys.

In awe you stand in thanksgiving. As behold perfect harmony in His creation, bow in prayer in this new hour ready to receive the strength to become eternally and harmoniously united to his will.

God grants you freely and without measure twelve glorious months of light and power to make of your life what you desire. Yours is a heart radiantly aglow with sterling dreams. Yours is a faith untroubled of inexplicable joy. Yours is a road beaming with hope. Yours is a vision aflamed with love of God and man.

Your days will be for work and for recreating yourself in the beauty of his works; your nights will be for rest and peaceful dreams. And they are yours, all yours; yours to keep and to hold; yours to share and to give; yours..... yours..... yours.

All that is asked of you is that you not permit your faith to be trampled or profaned.

Pure and immaculate is the new year before you. Take it!

by Mary Fitzpatric

Even The Poorest

Doña Luisiana Fonseca brightens her fourth floor garret apartment over Gante Church with pretty Scripture mottos. Every afternoon this cheerful little woman comes down to the groundfloor, sets up a card table and puts out her display of Bibles and religious literature. She is an accredited saleswoman of the Bible Society next door, and when it is after hours for the Agency, she can still be seen faithfully dispensing goodly counsel together with her sales. When she has no customers, she bends over her handwork—crocheting, knitting and beadwork—making endless gifts for her friends.

For many years she served as a church visitor; for the past five years she has b a Bible woman. Her sense of Christian wardship makes her a symbol of "widow's mite". She gives an extra tith her scant income for the poor at Christ time.

Born January 7, 1882, she was conve a year after her marriage and was wido eight years later when small pox struck d her young husband. He had observed wife's conduct and faith and in his hours, instead of asking for a priest to h his confession, he asked that she bring Protestant pastor. Childless, she has m the church her life.

lara Stands For Transparent

by Ruth V. Warner

When a successful young teacher from a ·ling Christian family was led into the per life of the Spirit, a potential mis- nary was born. The next chapter found ra Gibson in Seattle, Washington, pre- ing for Christian work.

Once in Mexico, her service began in the le School. Next came a sacrificial period n interdenominational children's home in zcuaro. Then she had a taste of rural k in the Cortazar center, and latterly, years as head of the Methodist Hostel for Girls in Puebla.

Miss Gibson's mother heart and transparent Christian spirit have proved an anchor to scores of girls during this time. She has tackled the whole gamut of home problems from measles to morals, loving and disciplining the youngsters, guiding and counseling their parents. Christ has been exalted and the Word of God planted in many hearts. "Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters".

Christ For All

by Mamie Baird

One of the not-so-young who attended the ernational Youth for Christ World As- bly last summer in Mexico City was a ral Bank official from Cortazar. He had d the Bible, but had made no profession he Christian faith. He was so honest and with the people that those who were ustomed to bribing officials in order to a better deal for themselves became so aged that they brought false charges inst him to the authorities in Mexico City.

Coming to Mexico City to defend himself ore the authorities, he decided to attend Youth for Christ service and was conv- ted.

Later he took the documents from his k that showed that he had been honest and upright in his dealings with both the government and the people. The documents were taken but not read and he was thrown into prison. A rather difficult experience for a new convert!

In simple faith he prayed that God would open the prison doors. God did just that. Two days later a higher official who had demanded the papers he had presented, reviewed them and personally went to the prison to tell the man that there was nothing against him. He commended him on the fine way he had served the people through the bank.

When he gave his testimony in the Cortazar church there was hardly a dry eye in the congregation.

Instituto del Pueblo

by Olive I. Givin

Wouldn't it be thrilling to be in the first group to have classes in a new school building? One of my evening classes thought so, as they sat in a large, airy room, looking out at a statue of Hidalgo, the Father of his Country. They reveled in blackboard space enough to accommodate all of them at once, (and good blackboards) after having had two makeshift ones on which the writing could scarcely be seen. As there were still many details to be completed, the formal opening was delayed until after the beginning of the school year, September 2nd.

On Inauguration Day, Dr. Samuel Guy Inman, who founded the school more than a half century ago, was with us. In the program that day, trophies were awarded to those who won first place in the oratory and spelling contests held at the close of the last school year.

Registration for the three-year commercial course is now complete, and, in spite of the new building, pupils have had to be turned away. Instituto del Pueblo is the largest commercial school in the city. Last June the Director of Education of the State of Coahuila, and other professors from Saltillo, came to form the examining board for the commercial department, when 81 students passed and received their certificates. Some of them, and some graduates of former years, work in Piedras Negras, and others in Eagle Pass, across the river in Texas.

Next June we shall have graduates from the secondary course, which was begun only two years ago.

Last year there were 356 students enrolled in the regular classes in the secondary and commercial departments, with abou hundred more in special classes in Engl typewriting, shorthand and bookkeeping

Now that we have more room, we h to have other activities this year, such classes in home arts, for graduates and oth and a library, which will be opened to alu and the general public.

We were happy when Mrs. Rebeca T. Osuna—whose generosity has made possi our new building and a home for the dir or, Mrs. María del Refugio L. Vda. de S chez—gave us her husband's library. professors and others who have seen it enthusiastic, especially since all the books Piedras Negras were destroyed in the flood of 1954, and few have been replace

This year there is a special course those who have finished commercial, seco ary, or preparatory school, and want to le enough English to be able to continue th studies in the United States, or to tak position where that language is used.

In addition to classroom work, stude take part in sports, such as volley ball a basketball, and the Institute's band is of the best in the city.

Last spring we were happy when one the leading professors in the Institute baptized and taken into membership in Methodist Church. While the majority our pupils come from Catholic families, th are Protestants, too, and the institution known as Protestant. Whether Catholic Protestant, we trust that our young peo will receive not only good instruction the mind, but also inspiration for the spi

Better Than Sermons

by Mary N. Pearson

Twenty-five years of service in the same tion is a record worthy of recognition, cially when it has shown such worth- e results. Twenty-five years ago on ch 2nd, Miss Mamie Baird arrived in tical Cortazar. Alone and unknown she ready to serve in this difficult field. ough her friendly and helpful spirit, ough the years, she has won the respect he people of the community and the love appreciation of the folks of the church.

In 1934, although there was a one-room, ium-sized edifice, the church membership sisted of two adults besides three chil- n. Through the years with patience and l work, often as pastor as well as direct- of the social work, she has built it up e a light in the Bajio region, with fifty bers of adults and young people, besides y children. The parsonage—three tiny ns back of the church building—served er home for ten years.

In 1944, a house was acquired with ey given by the Woman's Society of istian Service, which, through the years, been conditioned not only to serve as a e but also as a social center for the rch and community. The social room of Center has been the scene of many a ivity as well as a study room for the ses of English, piano practice and sewing, ting place for the Junior League and for ily Vacation Church School, and various es of fiestas. It has even been used at es as a dormitory. The children enjoy swings and slide in the patio. Even some he grownups have been to enjoy them, ! The clinic, established in 1956, is open days a week and serves scores of poor s, some of whom can pay only a small and others nothing.

The hospitality of the Center is prover- . Whenever folks from the villages of Minilla or Mandinga, up in the mountains, come to town and need to stay overnight, the Center is where they stay. If some woman from the village of Suchitlán is sick and needs the nurse's special care, she is brought there, sometimes even staying for a week. A little room in the rear of the house has been specially fixed up for such occasions.

Not only the work of the church and Center, but also visits on Sunday for Sunday School and on Monday for the clinic in Suchitlán and on Wednesday for a service with the women and also for the children in La Colonia, with occasional visits to Minilla and Mandinga, are part of the work; besides visits in the homes, translating letters in English for folks who know little or nothing of the language and answering them.

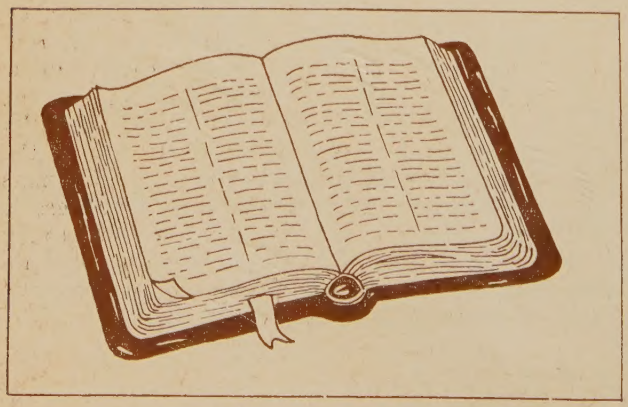
The demands of the work and the variety of service can scarcely be defined. Many a boy and girl has been encouraged and helped to a higher education—to become a teacher, nurse, deaconess or pastor—by Miss Baird. She has spent herself in love, time, money and energy for the progress of the church and the Center.

That the people of the church appreciate her counsel, help and friendship was realized on March 2nd. Through the efforts of the young people and the Woman's Society, an impressive service was held in the church, beautifully decorated with calla lillies, candytuft, babies' breath, ferns and palms, with XXV ANNIVERSARY MAMIE BAIRD in sparkling letters on the front wall of the church. An appropriate program of hymns by the choir, Bible readings and prayers, a very effective and appreciative address by the Rev. José O. Velasco, several testimonials by members of the church and the presentation of a lovely gift.

I Would Be Great

O Lord,
I would be great—
But not in some spectacular way
For world acclaim.
Beyond my talents
Lie outstanding deeds, perhaps;
But, Lord, I would be great
In faithfulness to each small task
Thou givest me,
To do the best I can
With what I have
For Thy name's sake.
And if, some day, Thou sendest me
Some task that seems too big
For hands that only little deeds have done,
I know that what I cannot do,
Thou canst, through me, if I but will,
And in Thy strength
I'll do the thing that is too big for me.
Help me, O Lord, to stand approved
In faithfulness to every task.
Thus, in Thy sight
I will be great.

—Hattie B. McCracken



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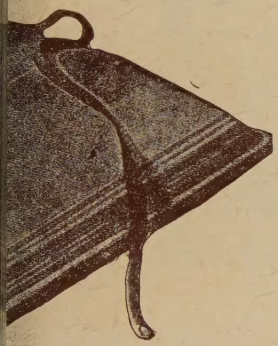
e V. Debs



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Just a Church Member

Youth?
Life is long, and I am young;
I have "wild oats" to sow.
My life will be on pleasure strung

As down this road I go.
Just a church member?
I should attend the service—
I really should, I know;
But I'll sleep this Sunday—
Let the others go.

Preacher?
God, please help to lead
Thy children to the fold.
Let me minister to the need
Of all, both young and old.

Christian?
My fellowmen are crying;
The world is full of hate,
I'll somehow keep on trying;
God's tasks for me to wait.

—Mary Helen Culbreth

A Dream Comes True

by Joy de Leon

"Your young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams".—Acts 2:17.

I am not a man and I am neither young nor old, but I guess I can see visions, dream dreams and turn them into reality.

The vision is not only praying, but living, "Thy Kingdom come" and seeing it brighten the lives of men, women and children. The dream is that even I might find a way of helping to bring this wonderful kingdom of God so that there should be life in abundance and none shall be sick or hungry and "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes". (Rev. 7:17).

The vision and the dream never leave me. I see it in two little tots who come hand in hand to the Mobile Clinic which is park in the middle of a muddy road. The l hops across the patch of snow but the g refuses to pass the white stuff which I gu she is seeing for the first time. We of encouragement as do the group of older bo who sit on the sidelines, enjoying the safe of being above the age for these shots. T president of the pueblo, whose friendship have won, calls the child and she takes hea runs the short distance to where one of t nurses lifts her and her dignity is devastate

With the series of vaccinations the children will not have to fear prevental diseases. But even more than the vaccin tions, we take loving thought to them. Th need a ball; we encourage town cooperati in getting it. Reforestation is a boom this desert land. We work with the gover

t to get the people to promise to plant care for them. We take them the list the headman goes from house to house senting it. He comes back with an order 100 fruit trees and 80 decorative ones free). Water is a problem and the men w their promise involves more work for n in the dry season, and constant vigi-e against animals nipping them in the .

One of my students is teaching the women nit; another specializes in games, a third ealth education, a fourth in making eyes he handsome young men who ride around proudly displaying their skill! We are "Reinas del Charco" (Queens of the Pud-)

Not only is this program aiding the vil-rs but it is helping our student nurses. y spend a month with me in field work special classes. It is the teacher's dream e true. Four students and a correlated program with complete freedom to plan the program to meet the needs of each one.

At the end of the first month I asked the girls to evaluate the course. Some of their comments were: "This has been a great help to us. It taught us to work as a team, forgetting differences. It created in us a feeling of love and fellowship. It also taught us not to criticize those who did not have our training, but to admire them for the effort they are making to grow under difficult conditions". Another wrote: "It helped us to feel that we could do any job without being afraid. It taught us to organize our work and to realize that there is a lot we can do to help others. It taught me to have more self confidence".

"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy and to walk humbly with thy God?"—Micah 6:8.

Easing a Brother's Pain

The Executive Secretary of the Board of Social Action of the Methodist Church of Mexico is Dr. Juan N. Pascoe, who has the distinction of having served as the first Bishop of the Mexican Church. Besides serving as official translator of the Spanish version of "The Upper Room", Dr. Pascoe finds time to work in the area of Christian social action.

He is the Mexican representative of Refugee Service, a dependency of the World Council of Churches, Geneva, Switzerland. Since his appointment in 1955, he has aided in the immigration of three Spanish refugees, the return to Mexico of a native doctor and his wife and the placement of two German children in adoptive homes in Mexico City.

While the refugee work is international, Dr. Pascoe's work in the Federal Penitentiary is local, although there are prisioners from other countries. Among them is Mornard, who killed Leon Trotzky and after being in prison for 20 years will be released in August. The work among prisioners was instigated by the Woman's Society of Christian Service of Gante Church, later seconded by the Men's Brotherhood of the Federal District. Dr. Pascoe and other Methodists are getting to be familiar figures in the halls of the penitentiary, where the warden often has a word of commendation for their efforts.

Dr. Pascoe also serves as president the Evangelical Defense Committee, a bo formed several years ago to provide le counsel and protection to persecuted Ch tians, especially in rural areas. The Defe Committee for the past ten years has sp sored a mass demonstration in front of Pr ident Benito Juarez's statue in downto Mexico City to show appreciation for intervention in favor of religious freed

rewell to These ...

Miss Selma Reynolds, having completed ecial term, has returned to her native s. She served a year in Centro Roberts, llo, and two years in Centro Mac- ell, Durango, as an English teacher and ch worker.

Miss Audry Jane Sowers, whose special was spent at the Laura Temple Hostel Mexico City, has returned to Baltimore, yland.

Miss Clara Gibson, for more than 30 s a missionary in Mexico, has been ed from her work as director of the hodist Hostel in Puebla. She chose Cal- ia for retirement.

Welcome to These...

Miss Treva Overholt, after serving several terms at Lima High School in Peru, comes to succeed Miss Clara Gibson as director of the Girls' Hostel in Puebla.

Miss Carol Dean Chappell, a special termer from El Cerrito, California, has arrived via Language School in San José, Costa Rica, to serve on the staff of the Laura Temple Hostel.

Miss Blanche Garrison also comes to Mexico via Language School in Costa Rica, to serve on the faculty of the Methodist School for Deaconesses. She has taught at Lydia Patterson Institute, El Paso; and Chicago Evangelistic Institute in Iowa.

HERE'N THERE

Rev. and Mrs. H. E. Nelson of Duncan, Arizona, visited their daughter, Donna Lou, who is acting director of rural work centered in Cortazar and Suchitlán, Guanajuato.

* * *

Miss Ola Eugene Callahan, a recently retired missionary, has been visiting former students and co-workers in her beloved Mexico.

* * *

Miss Mary Fitzpatrick is to have a three-month furlough from her work with the Board of Christian Education. Her address will be Route 2, Gallatin, Tennessee from April to July.

* * *

Rev. Daniel López de Lara, Executive Secretary of the Mexico City Agency of the American Bible Society, spent the month of February in the New York office.

* * *

Mr. Ernesto Wong, prominent young layman of the Balderas Methodist Church, was the Youth Week speaker at the Disciples of Christ Church in Aguascalientes, during February.

* * *

Rev. Daniel González, Mr. Jiro Miz and Miss Anita Domínguez were among Methodists attending the Latin Amer Union of Evangelical Youth (ULAJ leadership training conference in Costa I during the latter part of January and of February.

* * *

Rev. Kenneth L. Bennett, Metho pastor from British Honduras, Mr. Ant Nuñez and Mr. Antonio Castillo, also Belize, B. H., visited several churches the Republic during this quarter.

* * *

On Sunday afternoon, March 8th, cornerstone was laid for the new stud home in Monterrey. The much-n e e d home will continue under the direction Misses Evelyn Keim and Joyce Haberm

* * *

With the presence in this country of Executive Secretaries, Miss Marian De and Dr. James E. Ellis and Dr. James Mathews, a spiritual retreat was held Monterrey with almost a perfect attenda of all the missionaries. "The role of missionary" from the standpoint of m sionaries and nationals proved very int esting to all who attended. The fellows was magnificent.

* * *

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